REMARKS

Disposition of Claims:

Claims 1-6 and 9 are all the claims pending in the application and have been rejected. By way of this Amendment, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9 have been amended. Claims 3 and 5 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103:

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Arakawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,893,522). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arakawa. Further, claims 1-6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komeya, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,660,881) to Komeya, et al. in view of Arakawa. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Present claim 1 incorporates features of claims 1, 2 and 3, as filed, and further features based on the specification and drawings. These features are mainly based on page 4, 4th paragraph to page 5, 1st paragraph; page 9, 3rd paragraph and page 1, 2nd paragraph of the specification and Figs. 2 and 4.

The critical feature of amended claim 1 points out that a recess 51 is formed in the first surface (which is disposed on one of the casing and rotor) which is adapted to face the second surface (which is disposed on the other of said casing and rotor), wherein a pin 53 protrudes from the bottom of the recess (*See* Fig. 4) and wherein the pivotable element 52 is pivotably mounted on the pin of the recess and abuts against the bottom of the recess (*See* Figs. 2 and 4) in such a

way that the pivotable element is able to oscillate in the bottom of the recess, the pin portion protruding across the first surface for engaging the elongate groove.

According to Arakawa, a recess is formed in a surface of the rotor 1 which is adapted to face a surface of the cover 7. The recess is formed for receiving one end of the arm element ("pin"), which is configured as a rod-like element and has a Z-like shape. The recess does not have any pin protruding from the bottom of the recess, and the pivotable arm element is not pivotably mounted on a pin protruding from the bottom of the recess. Furthermore, the arm element does not abut against the bottom of the recess.

Therefore, a novel arrangement of arm element and recess features the rotary damper of the present invention with respect to the device of Arakawa. This novel arrangement brings important technical advantages to the device:

- the overall thickness of the damper can be reduced, since the arm element has a through hole for mounting on a protruding pin, and not a protruding end for mounting in a corresponding recess,

- the damper is more robust since the arm element abuts entirely against the bottom of the recess; and

- the damper is more reliable since the arm element is guided by the bottom of the recess.

The device of Komeya. et al. does not disclose or suggest this novel arrangement of arm element and recess.

Therefore, the combination of Arakawa and Komeya et al. does not teach or suggest the invention as recited by the amended claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims patentably distinguish over the prior art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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